

Team Phoenix at WPI

On Thursday, March 9 and Friday, March 10, students from *FIRST* Robotics Team 2342, Team Phoenix, competed at their first district event of the 2017 season.

Team Phoenix ended their qualifying round in the fifth seed, which placed them as an alliance captain for the playoffs. First robotics matches are played with three robots controlled by three different teams per side. Each side is called an alliance, and they all work together to score as many points as possible. In the qualifying rounds, alliances are chosen randomly, while in the playoffs the captains get to select their alliance members. At this event, the team made it all the way to round three in the semifinals, where, after a long and exciting match, they lost to the first seed alliance.

Team 2342 is comprised of students from the greater Nashua area, including many from the Academy for Science and Design. The students had six weeks this winter to design, build, and test a robot for this year's *FIRST* Robotics Competition. The game this year is called Steamworks, a steampunk themed game where robots must prepare airships for a race. The ship that is most prepared by the end of the 190 second match wins the race and acquires rank points that affect their standing in the qualifying rounds.

Team 2342's robot, the Steam Phoenix, has three main mechanisms for gameplay. They have a gear handler for transporting large, plastic gears to the airships in the middle of the field, a ball shooter to score balls into a goal called the Boiler, and a climber that allows the robot to climb a rope to score extra points at the end of the match. Team Phoenix's ball shooter was not fully functional for the WPI competition, but the coding subteam hopes to get it up and running for the next competition. Ball shooting was the deciding factor in the finals, so the team hopes to get theirs working to give them a better chance at their next competition in Bedford, NH.

In addition to their high placement, Team Phoenix won multiple awards, including the white



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cloth award, which was given to two teams who demonstrated that they were primarily student led and organized. The Team Phoenix mentors were given white gloves to symbolize that they were hands off and allowed students to do the work and learn valuable lessons for themselves. Mentor Jeff Brockway was selected to be a Woodie Flowers award finalist and student Ben Frothingham was selected to be a Dean's List Award District Championship semifinalist. These awards recognize exceptional mentors and students for their work, dedication, and inspiration to the team. The team also was awarded with the Innovation in Control Award.

The WPI district event was an overall success for Team 2342. After taking a much needed break over the weekend, Team 2342 was back to work on Monday, ready to make their robot ready for the Bedford event.

Ian Ayer is a junior at ASD.



Ben Frothingham at WPI.

